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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 18, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG OSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Timothy Smith, Chaplain, Sun Health Hospice, Sun City, Arizona, offered the following prayer:

Our Loving Father, we pause now before taking up the duties of this day. We pause to turn our thoughts to You. We acknowledge that in our own strength and wisdom, we are not sufficient for the challenges of the hour.

We unite now to bring to You the Members of this House for Your blessing. May each one today feel the strength and power of Your grace. Amid the many voices crying out to be heard and the agonizing problems to be faced, may they listen for Your still, small voice.

Grace each Member with Your spirit, that their hope be renewed and their vision revived. And bless their families and loved ones, each one, guarding and keeping them in the safety of Your hand.

May Your will for this Nation be done through these, Your servants, placed here by the people. We need Your help today, Father, and we do humbly seek it. In Your holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SYNDER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND TIMOTHY SMITH, CHAPLAIN, SUN HEALTH HOSPICE, SUN CITY, ARIZONA

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Father, John Adams,

told us, "Our Constitution was made for moral and religious people and that it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Mr. Speaker, we are very privileged today to have among us a man, Reverend Timothy Smith. Reverend Smith reminds all of us of our spiritual heritage in this country, and we are greatly bettered because of his presence with us today.

This gentleman has been offering spiritual counsel and leadership to Arizona residents for more than 30 years; and from children to senior citizens, thousands of Arizonians have benefited tremendously from the selfless ministry of this man.

He has served as chaplain for the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and has pastored congregations in Sun City and Glendale and is currently offering a very touching and much-needed type of compassion on a daily basis as chaplain of Sun Health Hospice in Sun City.

Mr. Speaker, we are indeed blessed to have this man with us because he somehow helps us know in our mortality that there is a high and lofty One that inhabits eternity that watches over all of us, and we are the better for his presence here; and I thank him for his commitment to God, his commitment to his country and his commitment to his fellow man.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

FREEDOM WILL COME TO CUBA

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives the case of Cuban political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, known as Antunez.

This young man has been in Castro's gulag since 1990, since his high school days, for failing to keep silent. An extraordinary leader of unlimited courage, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez was sentenced to 18 years in prison for so-called "verbal enemy propaganda."

Antunez, Mr. Speaker, is the face of the real Cuba.

Those who visit Cuba to have a good time, to take advantage of the regime-encouraged child prostitution, or simply to dine with the tyrant, may avoid seeing Antunez these days. But, sooner or later, Antunez will be free, Cuba will be free, and those who collaborated with his jailers and torturers will have to face him and many others like him.

COVERUP ON IRAQ DAMAGING LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, protection of the truth and the constitutional role of Congress as a coequal branch should not be a partisan matter. Yet yesterday Republicans on the House Committee on International Relations participated in the cover-up of the Bush administration's false claims which sent America to war against Iraq.

The resolution of inquiry, backed by 40 Members of the House, sought to protect Congress' role in asking the administration where is the proof that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction; where was proof of an imminent threat.

Unfortunately, as panic sets in over the realization that this administration misled the American people in the cause of war, Republicans are refusing to hold public hearings, refusing serious oversight, open oversight. Republicans just will not make Republicans accountable. That is the problem with one-party rule.

Our democracy is in danger if we do not make this administration accountable. They sent this country into war based on lies and in doing so have damaged the legitimacy of their own government. Where are the weapons of mass destruction? Where was the imminent threat? Why did America go to war?

AMERICA, A LIBERATING NATION

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Popular representation, Mr. Speaker, in our constitutional Republic is a wonderful thing. It has led some to say that the preceding speaker in the well would make a good President. It has led others to say that the preceding speaker in the well would make a good President of France.

The fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that the United States of America rose up against a tyrant, not only because of weapons of mass destruction, but because the tyrant himself was a weapon of mass destruction. Take a look at the mass graves, the children buried with their dolls, the millions of people who were sacrificed by the regime of Saddam Hussein. And yet there are those, earnest in their intent, to tell us somehow that this Nation is evil, to go to sloganeering: "No blood for oil." The fact remains, historically it was that tyrant who invaded Kuwait for oil, it was that tyrant who went to war with Iran for oil.

The fact is, the United States of America is a liberating Nation, not a conquering Nation. We stand here unashamedly rejoicing in that fact.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

REPEAL OF DEATH TAX TO LIVING AMERICANS

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, today this House will continue its discussion of the repeal of the estate tax, the so-called "death tax." But, in fact, this bill is a continuation of policies that will hurt living Americans.

Let me give one example. From this month's magazine back home, "Aging Arkansas," referring to the last tax cut passed by this House: "Tax cut bleeds seniors. Yet Republican leaders come forward once again to shrink, wither and dry up government."

And what is government? It is what this article talks about, programs that older Americans have taken for granted.

Today in Arkansas, a few of the wealthiest Americans will benefit from this repeal of the estate tax, but tens of thousands of other Arkansan seniors will be hurt.

REPEAL OF ESTATE TAX NECESSARY NOW

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, my constituent Mary Ann wrote me about the effect of the estate tax on her family's farm. Her mother's family owned that farm for five generations. Mary Ann promised her mother it

would stay in the family for generations to come. After her parents passed away, Mary Ann was faced with the high cost of the estate tax on the valuable family land she had inherited. Sadly, the family had to part with the farm in part due to the death tax.

Examples such as this have become far too common in my district and across this great Nation. The estate tax has devastated numerous family farms and businesses. It discourages entrepreneurship, thrift, and diligence.

We should not penalize an individual's efforts to make life better for their children. I am opposed to the government taxing anyone's property simply because the owner has died. The time has come to permanently repeal the estate tax.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in ending the death tax once and for all.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act.

I was pleased to see the inclusion of language that abates interest on erroneous tax refunds. This is language nearly identical to my Erroneous Tax Refund Fairness Act.

I had to deal with this very issue a few years ago when I tried to return an erroneous refund. Actually the IRS put into my bank account \$66,000 more than I was supposed to get back, so my husband called and said we want to return this \$66,000. They would not take it. My CPA called and said we would like to return the \$66,000. They would not take it. I called them and said I need to return the \$66,000. They would not take it.

Four months later, they finally took it back. Two weeks later they sent us another check for \$66,000. A short time after that, after we finally got the \$66,000 back to the IRS, I was billed by the IRS for the interest on the money, even though I had not earned any. So I applaud this bill for including this language.

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the past week, in scenes reminiscent of Eastern Europe in the last days of the Soviet domination, students in Tehran took to the streets in protest against Iran's brutal, repressive government. They were a vivid reminder that a lot of Iranians want more freedom in how they live their lives.